



## June 2026 Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2026

**Time:** 5:35-6:51pm

**Location:** Hybrid meeting, Zoom and Clallam County Board of Commissioners' Meeting Room

**Minutes:** prepared by Chase O'Neil

### Member Roll

|                                                   | Member                                     | Present? | Alternate         | Present? |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| <b>Academic Community</b>                         | Ed Bowlby                                  | X        | Ioana Bociu       |          |
| <b>At Large</b>                                   | Alan Clark ( <i>NWSC Rep, Vice Chair</i> ) | X        | Mary Sue Brancato |          |
| <b>At Large</b>                                   | Tim Cochnauer                              | X        | Bev Burton        | X        |
| <b>Conservation &amp; Environmental Interests</b> | Nancy Stephanz                             | X        | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| <b>Development Community</b>                      | Brian Hilderman                            | X        | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| <b>District I</b>                                 | Jeff Ward                                  | X        | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| <b>District II</b>                                | Ann Soule                                  | excused  | Lyn Muench        | excused  |
| <b>District III</b>                               | [vacant seat]                              | ---      | Dann May          |          |
| <b>Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe</b>                  | Christopher Burns                          |          | Robert Knapp      | X        |
| <b>Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe</b>                  | Allyce Miller                              | excused  | Chelsea Korbolic  | X        |
| <b>Makah Tribe</b>                                | [vacant seat]                              | ---      | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| <b>Marine Related Recreation &amp; Tourism</b>    | Rob Casey                                  | X        | [vacant seat]     | ---      |
| <b>Port Angeles City Council</b>                  | LaTrisha Suggs ( <i>Chair</i> )            | excused  | Jon Hamilton      | X        |
| <b>Port of Port Angeles Commission</b>            | Jesse Waknitz                              |          | Katharine Frazier | X        |
| <b>Sequim City Council</b>                        | Meggan Uecker                              |          | Kelly Burger      |          |

### **Staff and Others Present**

Chase O'Neil (Clallam County Habitat Biologist and MRC Project Coordinator), Mark Ozias (Clallam County Commissioner, District I), Angela Glore (Strait ERN Coordinator), Jon Strivens (Clallam County Department of Environmental Health), Amelia Kalagher (former Clallam County MRC staff and current interested bystander).

### **Welcome / Call to Order / Introductions**

***Vice Chair Alan Clark called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.*** Committee members and members of the public attending the meeting introduced themselves. A quorum was present at the beginning of the meeting.

### **Public Comment**

- None at this time.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- ***Nancy Stephanz moved to approve the May 2026 minutes, Jon Hamilton seconded. The motion passed with unanimous consent and minutes were approved.***

### **Presentation**

- *Suzanne Shull – GIS Specialist for Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, SoundIQ:* Suzanne Shull gave an overview of SoundIQ, an MRC data repository. She explained background information and history about the repository, how to use it, what datasets are currently included and what Clallam MRC data sets could be added. There was some discussion on what data sets would work well on SoundIQ such as the pigeon guillemot project. Members also suggested changes and asked follow-up questions on how it works. Ed Bowlby suggested connecting the Survey123 data for the pigeon guillemot project. Alan Clark asked for a follow-up meeting with a smaller subset of the group to discuss what to add and how. Nancy Stephanz brought up the Sound Toxins program and asked if it was possible to add a link on SoundIQ to the Department of Health website where this data is stored. Suzanne mentioned that this is possible however, in the past, the Northwest Straits Commission staff limited outside datasets. She also said that this idea is being revisited and other relevant data sets that have interest to MRCs may be added in the future. Jeff Ward hopes that city and county planners would have interest in these datasets and that this would ultimately lead to increased collaboration between the MRC and resource planners. While SoundIQ functions as a repository now, Suzanne mentioned a future goal is to help with map making in addition to decision making. Commissioner Mark Ozias asked how SoundIQ helps with decision-making and long-term impact. Suzanne explained some of the history and collaboration with other management agencies, however Northwest Straits does not currently use it in that way. Members added how they've seen the data

utilized. Chase O'Neil asked about workflow and next steps for adding data and Suzanne said to first contact Northwest Straits Commission staff.

### **New or special business**

- *Legislature outreach and MRC workgroup:* Alan Clark explained that the Northwest Straits Commission is forming a workgroup made up of MRC members and others to help represent the MRC program and speak with legislature representatives about MRC activities and the importance of state and federal funding. It involves site visits where members would show MRC project work to legislature representatives. There would be guidelines for the site visits such as checklists and suggested talking points to make it easier to lead them. The purpose is to be a bottom-up/community approach. Alan asked the group if anyone would like to participate in this workgroup and, if interested, to follow up with him. Most of the work would occur in late July through October. Chase O'Neil asked about time commitment estimates, and Alan mentioned that it's currently not well known, but one idea is to pair up with Jefferson MRC and that would potentially lower the time commitment. Additionally, a combined visit to Jefferson and Clallam MRC Olympia oyster sites could show good teamwork. Chelsea Korbolic agreed that the idea of merging with Jefferson is great for efficiency and strengthens the Olympia oyster project messaging with the connection between restoration and stewardship but also economic interests.

### **Announcements**

- *Reminder: Fall Festivals 2026:* Nancy Stephanz spoke about the Fall festival sign-ups. She reminded the group that the booth needs two people per shift and the deadline for sign-ups is July 15<sup>th</sup>. Chelsea Korbolic gave an update on MRC education outreach subcommittee. She mentioned the committee is working to revive existing materials and create new ones. Specifically, she described a new activity/game, a tank with geoducks, and a kelp forest display made by a local artist. Tim Cochnauer is also working on outreach displays and asked for additional shells if anyone had them. Angela Glore offered to bolster shifts for the festival with Strait ERN staff and collaborate.
- *Shore Friendly Workshop in Clallam – August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026:* Chase O'Neil explained that MRC staff was contacted by the Northwest Straits Foundation about a shore-friendly workshop they are hosting in Clallam County on August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Sequim Dungeness River Nature Center. They asked if the MRC would be interested in giving a short (around 5 minute) introduction. Chase will send a follow-up email with more details.
- *Northwest Straits Commission update – Alan Clark:* Alan reminded the group about the July 24<sup>th</sup> Northwest Straits Commission meeting in Clallam County. It starts around 10 am. The Northwest Straits Commission has also hired a new staff member, Katalin Chapman.

### **Committee and Project Reports**

- *Project leads report only if an update is needed:*

- *Kelp*: Chelsea Korbolic and Alan Clark shared that the Kelp kayak team had their first kayak shake-out greet and paddle. They checked out Freshwater Bay and Observatory Point. It's a large volunteer group this year and includes member Rob Casey and others from the Olympic Peninsula Paddlers Club/Association. Next steps include scheduling the surveys.
- *Pigeon Guillemots*: Ed Bowlby shared that it's week three and the team going strong. He's currently working on finding substitutes for people going on vacation.
- *Pinto abalone*: Alan Clark shared that the team is creating a working group for the Straits and is meeting with Feiro in July.
- *Forage fish*: Chelsea Korbolic went out to do beach seining in the Ediz Hook area and Elwha beaches with forage fish biologists who work with NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center. They caught lots of forage fish and saw great diversity in the nearshore environment. Surf smelt were present at both Ediz and Elwha sites but they were not spawning size. At Ediz hook, a few fish of spawning size were found near the boat ramp. This is good information for the forage fish team to consider when thinking about the current sampling sites. There was also a lot of sand lance present. Tim Cochnauer also found many surf smelt eggs in the May Cline Spit sample.
- *Olympia oysters*: Chase O'Neil shared that Olympia oyster monitoring went well this year, with good weather and lots of oysters to count, and no one got stuck in the mud.
- *Advisory subcommittee*: no update.

#### **Discussion of next meeting date and agenda**

- *Next meeting*: The next meeting will take place on Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> (skip July).
- *Call for new agenda items*: Alan Clark reminded the group to let Chase O'Neil know if you have any ideas for speakers or topics.

#### **Good of the Order**

- Chelsea Korbolic shared that the MRC conference is being hosted in Port Townsend in November and for project leads to think about whether they would like to present this year.
- Chase O'Neil announced Chris Burns' departure from the MRC as the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe representative. Jenna Ziogas will be taking over for him.

#### **Public Comment**

- Jon Strivens spoke about the collaboration between the Salish Sea Modeling Group and the Department of Health who are doing circulation modeling for bacteria in inlets and

are updating the results for Dungeness Bay in 2027. They will be using Clallam County Streamkeepers data for that.

**Adjourn**

***Vice Chair Alan Clark adjourned the meeting at 6:51pm.***